

TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma



TWIN SPICA

10

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I WANNA
BE A ROCKET
DRIVER AND
DRIVE WAY
UP HIGH
INTO
SPACE
AND
LOOK
DOWN ON
YUASA
BAY.

THAT'S
MY
DREAM.



AND

MY
OTHER
DREAM
IS—

MISSION:47











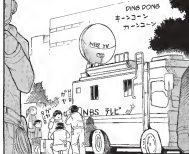




























SHE SAID
SHE WAS
DOING
RESEARCH IN
THE LIBRARY.



WHY
IS SHE
BEING
SUCH A
LOSER?



YEAH,
RIGHT.



JUST
FOR
NOW.
HE'S
JUST
A FAD.

SO
SUZUKI'S

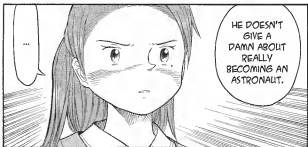
BECOMING
A SCHOOL
CELEBRITY.



DIDN'T
EVEN
COME
TO THE
CEREMONY.
WHAT'S HE
DOING?

THE
CELEB
HIMSELF









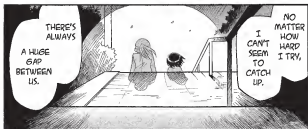




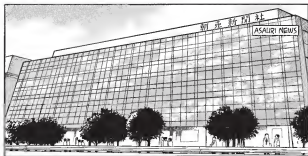










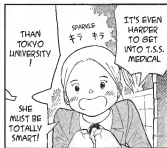




MISSION:48

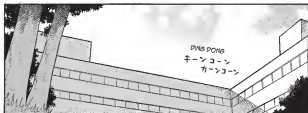




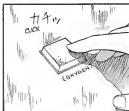


















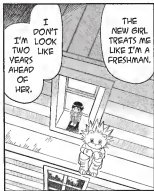
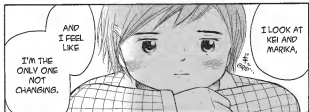






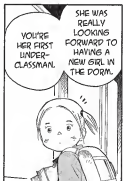
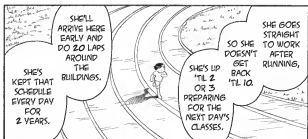




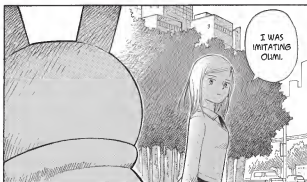


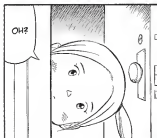










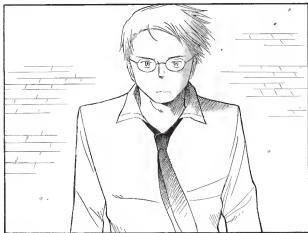


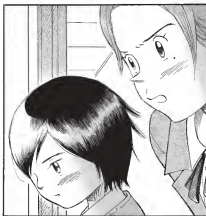


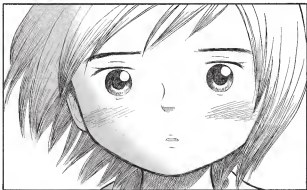




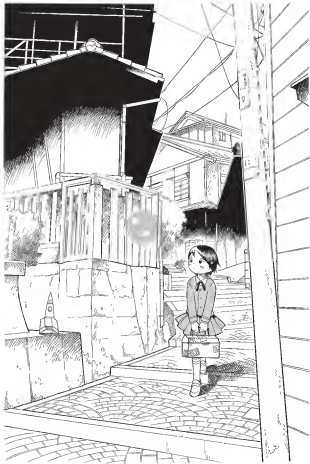








MISSION:49









WAS
BOUGHT
PART AND
PARCEL
FROM A
CERTAIN
COUNTRY

THE
MAIN
ENGINE
OF "THE
LION"



YOU
WERE
RIGHT.



BOUGHT
?!
!!



TO
PRESS-
URE
FROM
ABOVE.

WE
CAVED



I
THOUGHT
YOU'D
SETTLED
ON THE
ITOZAWA
PLAN.

AFTER
ALL THAT
NEGO-
TIATING,

BUT
WHY ?



I
CAN'T SAY
THAT THAT
COUNTRY'S
ENGINEERING
IS WHAT
CAUSED THE
CRASH.

THE
PROBLEM
WAS THE
DEVELOP-
MENT
TEAM'S
MORALE.

HAVING THE
YOUNGEST
ASTRONAUT
EVER ON BOARD

ALSO
GAVE
OUR
PROJECT
A PUSH

WITH
THE
APPROVAL
RATINGS
AMONG
THE
PUBLIC
VERY
HIGH

THE PR
CAMPAIGN
WAS FAR
MORE
SUCCESS-
FUL THAN
EXPECTED

YOU WERE
ON LOAN
FROM A
FIRM SO
MAYBE YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW

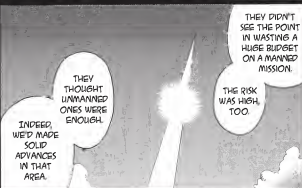
THE
MANNED
ROCKET
PROJECT WAS
ENTIRELY
THE SPACE
DEVELOPMENT
CONSORTIUM'S
IDEA.

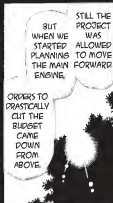
THE
NUMBER OF
ASTRONAUT
APPLICANTS

WAS
IMPRESSION-
GIVING,
TOO.

EUROPE
AND CHINA
HAD
ALREADY
LAUNCHED
MANNED
SHIPS.

SO WE
WERE
SCRAMBLING
TO CATCH
UP







IT WAS
JUST
A MEANS.

BUT FOR THE
AUTHORITIES,
SPACE
WASN'T
A DREAM.

A MANNED
MISSION
WAS THE
ETERNAL
GOAL

FOR
US,



WE
HAD NO
CHOICE...

BUT



TO MAKE
OUR OWN
MANNED
ROCKET.

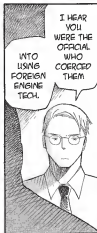
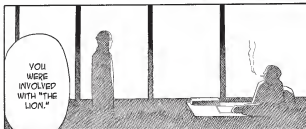
I REALLY
WANTED



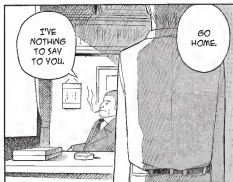
SINCE
I WAS
A LITTLE
KID.

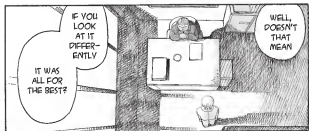
IT
WAS
MY
DREAM













THAT'S WHY
YOU DON'T
WANT TO GO.



HEY,
SANO?

YOU
HAVEN'T
REALLY
GIVEN UP,
HAVE YOU?



BUT I WANT
TO SEE
WITH MY
OWN EYES

THE
REALIZATION
OF YOUR
DREAMS.

I'LL BE
WAITING

IN
YUIGAHAMA.









SHUT
IT.

23
SECONDS!
YOU'VE
GOTTEN
GOOD,
RICHUYA.

CASUALLY
HARD-
WORKING.
I'LL NEVER
BEAT YOU.



I WONDER
WHY THAT
SANO CAME
BACK.



IF HE
IS,
THAT'D
SLICK.

DON'T TELL
ME HE'LL
TEACH
HERE AGAIN.



DON'T
TALK
IN
YOUR
SLEEP.

YOU'RE
TOO NICE,
MISS
KAMO-
GAWA.

I'M SO
TIRED
RECENTLY.



A BAD
TEACHER.

NEVER
THOUGHT
HE WAS



I...





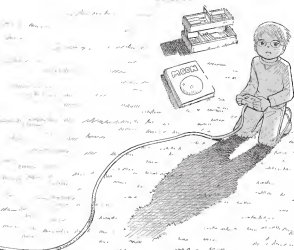




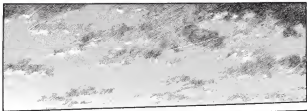


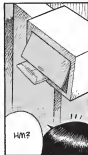
NO
MATTER
WHAT,





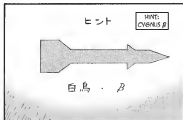
**DON'T GIVE
UP ON YOUR
DREAM.**





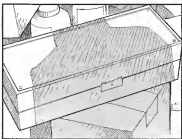








MISSION:50

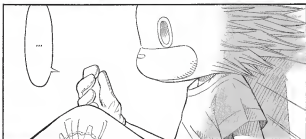




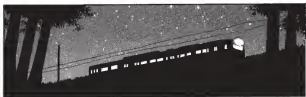












HEY,
SANO.





VLISA-
HAMA.



BUT I
CHECKED
TO SEE

WHERE
WE'D HAVE
THE BEST
VIEW, OF
THE SEA
TOO.



THEY
SAY THE
LAUNCH
CAN BE
SEEN

FROM
PRETTY MUCH
ANY BEACH
IF IT'S A
CLEAR DAY.



SORRY,
CAN'T.
I'VE
GOT

WORK
TOMOR-
ROW.



WANT
TO GO
WITH
ME?





PROF-
ESSOR
SANO?

OH,
THEY'RE
IN THE
COUNT-
DOWN!

"THE LION"
IS FINALLY
LAUNCHING.

PREPPING
FOR TOMOR-
ROW'S
LECTURE.

UH,
I'M JUST

SCHOOL'S OUT
TODAY.
WHAT'S UP?





"THE
LION" IS
GOING
DOWN!



THE
ROCKET IS
VEERING
OFF
COURSE.



AH!!



"THE LION"
HAS
CRASHED
NEAR
YUIGAHAMA.

OH
MY
...
"THE
LION"
HAS
CRASHED
!



THE SEA
NEAR
YUIGAHAMA
IS VERY
PRETTY.

THE
PATHS
WITH
MANY
STAIRS,



THE
BRIGHT RED
OF THE
SHRINE
ARCHWAYS,
AND THE OLD-
FASHIONED
POSTBOXES
ARE PRETTY
AS WELL.

THE TREES
RUSTLING
IN THE
BREEZE
ARE
LOVELY.



THE
SKY
IS
CLEAR.





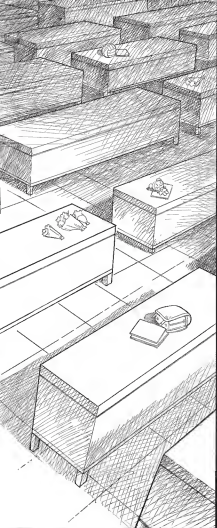
IS THAT
IN THE END,
I'M THE
ONLY ONE
WHO
LOVES YOU,
SANO.

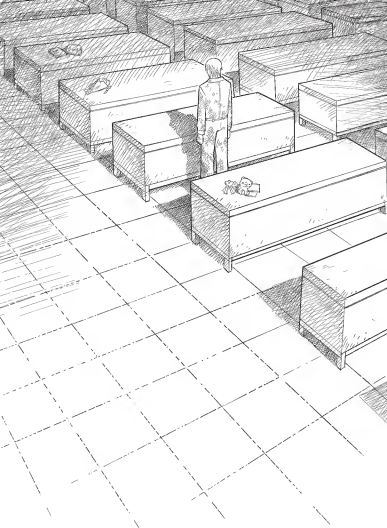


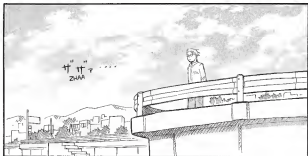
THE
ONLY
SAD
THING

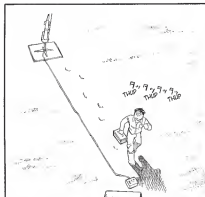
THE COSMOS
BLOOMING
BY THE
ROADS
ARE
VERY PRETTY.





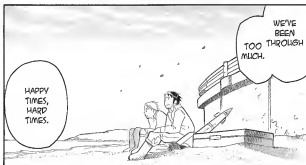






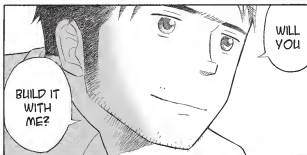












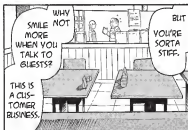


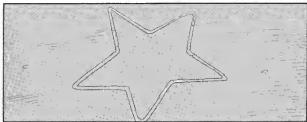
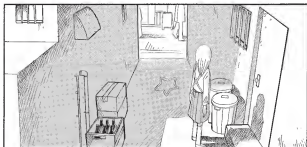




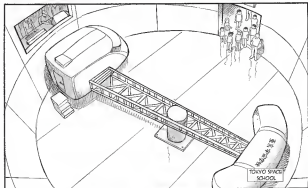
MISSION:51

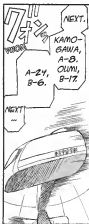
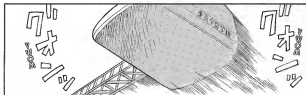


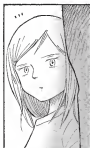
















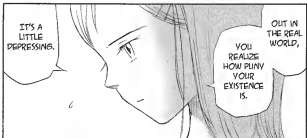
I'M NOT
USED TO
WORKING
A JOB,

SO
I'M
TIRED.



W
H
A

YOU
SURE
?



IT'S A
LITTLE
DEPRESSING.

OUT IN
THE REAL
WORLD,

YOU
REALIZE
HOW PUNY
YOUR
EXISTENCE
IS.



I REALIZE
HOW STUPID
IT IS TO ACT
TOUGH.
FUNNY.

BUT
WHEN
I'M
WITH
YOU,



SOMEHOW
MADE ME
GLAD.

THAT

SLOWLY,

GETTING
CLOSER
TO HER.

I FEEL
LIKE I'M
SLOWLY,

I'M CLOSER
TO SUZUKI
AND HE'S
CLOSER
TO ME.

I'M CLOSER
TO FUCHIYA
AND HE'S
CLOSER
TO ME.

AND
KEI'S
CLOSER
TO ME.

I'M
CLOSER
TO KEI,

AND SHE'S
CLOSER
TO ME.

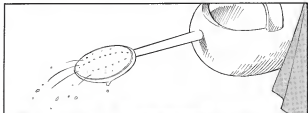
I'M
CLOSER
TO
MARIKA,

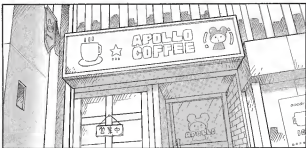
WHAT IT
MEANS
TO BE
FRIENDS.

THIS
JUST
MIGHT
BE



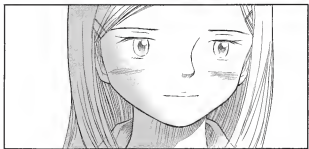
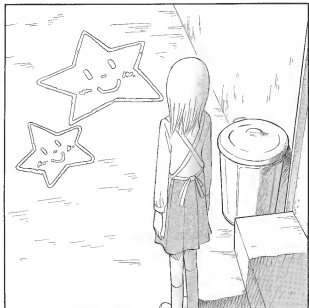


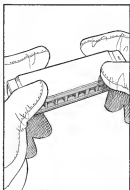
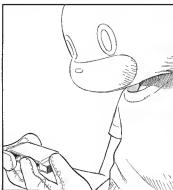
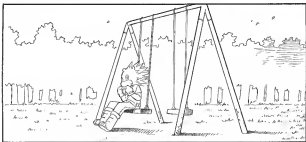












ONCE IN A
GREAT WHILE,
THERE ARE
SOULS THAT
CAN'T CROSS
OVER, EVEN IN
THE BOAT.



OR
IMPORTANT
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS.



IT'S
HARD TO
MAKE
THAT
JOURNEY
IF
YOU'VE
GOT SOME-
THING YOU
CAN'T LET
GO OF



YOU, TOO,
SEEM
TO HAVE
A DREAM
THAT WENT
UNREALIZED.







AND
BEFORE THEY
KNOW IT,
THEY'RE FAR
AWAY FROM
THEIR DREAMS.

JUST TO LIVE,
MOST PEOPLE
ACCEPT COM-
PROMISES,
LITTLE BY
LITTLE,

IT'S
EASIER
TO GET.

A COM-
PROMISE IS
ALWAYS
LYING
RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF YOUR
DREAM.

OR THEY'LL
NEVER
BLOOM
LARGE.

DREAMS
ARE THE
SAME. YOU
HAVE TO
HOLD ON

IT'LL BE
YEARS
BEFORE
IT BEARS
FRUIT.

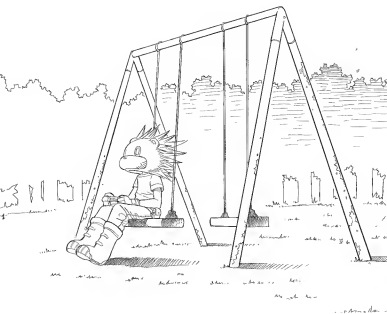
IT NEEDS
TO BE
WATERED
EVERY
DAY.

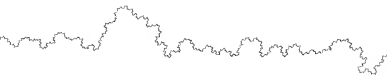
FOR A
SAPLING
TO
GROW
INTO
A BIG
TREE,

IS JUST THAT
FAR AWAY,
TOO.

THE OUTER
SPACE YOU
DREAM OF







amplitude

time

frequency

amplitude

frequency

amplitude

time

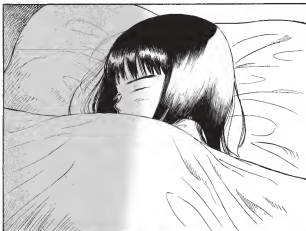
amplitude

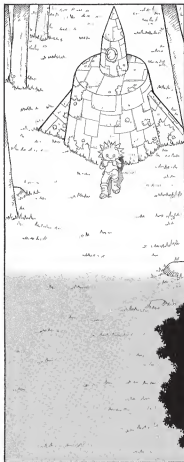
time

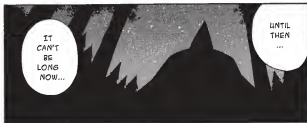
amplitude











MISSION:52



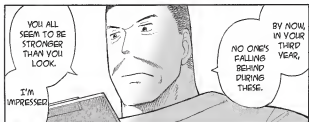




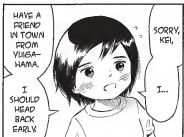
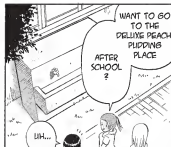




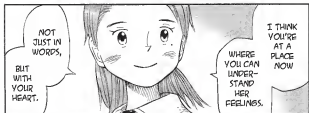














MIKAN,
YOU SAW
HER?!

WRONG
DETAIL.

SHE WAS
EATING
SWEET-BEAN
BREAD
FROM
KAWAZAKI.

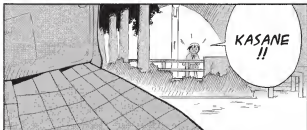
I'VE GOT
HAWK'S
EYES.

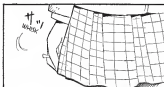
I'M
PRETTY
SURE.

WHERE
?!

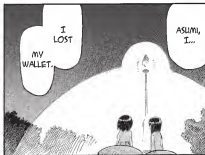
IN
SAKURA
PARK.







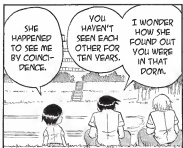








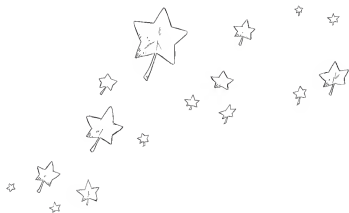


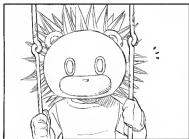
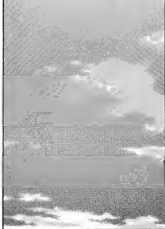


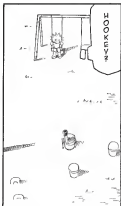






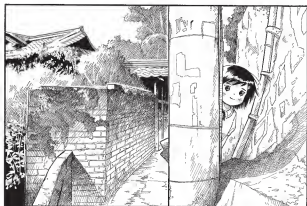








ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA

and sending them along the conveyor belts according to their destination.



My job was wrapping orders for a big department store



I was working in a warehouse somewhere along Tokyo Bay.



This happened one summer, a few years after I graduated college.



I was forced into a college exam fray where the acceptance rates were depressing.



PUNNO

ARE POLITICIANS RICH?

I was born in '73, part of the large Junior Boomer Generation.



THAT'S FROM A CERTAIN POLITICIAN.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE THAT CAN AFFORD \$500 SUMMER GIFTS?



Our generation was walked all over and kicked around.



DING DONG
キーン
カーン

We never got even a crumb from the feast of the Bubble years.



By the time we graduated, the recession had begun. Jobs were scarce.

WHO SAID THE ECONOMY WOULD BOUNCE BACK IN 4 YEARS?





Miss N dropped out of high school and worked as a semi-full-timer there.

IF YOU GET TOO USED TO IT, IT'LL BE HARD TO QUIT.
DON'T GET TOO COZY.

We were the same age, yet she always spoke politely to me.



I'd just started to look forward to going to work there and was at a loss about what I really wanted to do.



I honestly can't remember a thing I said. I was dumbfounded, completely taken off-guard.



It was the girl who dumped me in school.



It'd been years since I'd heard her voice.



I got the call one night that summer.





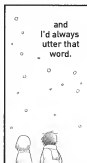
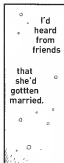
right
before we
hung up.

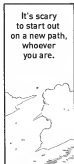


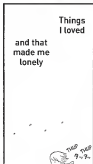
But I
couldn't
forget
what she
said



I had no
idea at
that point
why she'd
suddenly
called.







Notes on the Translation

P. 13

"Chief Cabinet Secretary" is an important administration post that has no immediate American counterpart, combining as it does elements of the functions of White House Chief of Staff, White House Press Secretary, and Vice President. It is considered a stepping stone to an eventual premiership.



P. 38, 39

Tokushima and Ehime are both prefectures on Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four major islands. While Tokushima also produces "mikan" or oranges, it is Ehime that is known for them. Resident advisor Sakashita, whose first name "Ringo" means apple, jokes about their fruitful meeting on the next page. (There is no Japanese expression about how the two can't be compared.)



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"Kou Yaginuma has created a fascinating alternate future for Japan, where tragedy becomes the foundation of both the protagonist's story and her country's entry into the space race... Asumi's single-minded dedication to her childhood dream is admirable. As soon as I finished this book, I found myself already longing to read more." —*i♥manga!*



$$N = R + f_p + n_e + f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_L$$